

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 14, 16 and 24 without prejudice as to the subject matter claimed therein.

Please amend claims 7, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25 and 26 as follows:

7. (Amended) A circuit comprising:

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a first transistor having a first terminal coupled to a first supply voltage and a second terminal [coupled] connected to a second supply voltage;

a second transistor having a first terminal [coupled] connected to a third terminal of said first transistor and a second terminal [coupled] connected to said second supply voltage; and

a capacitor [coupled] connected between a third terminal of said second transistor and said first supply voltage.

15. (Amended) A device for protecting a circuit against voltage surges comprising:

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a first transistor having a first terminal coupled to a first power supply and a second terminal coupled to a second power supply;

a second transistor having a first terminal coupled to said first power supply and a second terminal [coupled] connected to said second power supply and to a third terminal of said first transistor; and

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a third transistor having a first terminal [and a third terminal] coupled to said first power supply, [and] a second terminal coupled to said second power supply and to a third terminal of said second transistor, and a third terminal connected to said first power supply through a capacitor;

wherein said third terminals of said first, second and third transistors are coupled to said second power supply through first, second and third resistors, respectively.

In claim 17, line 1, change "16" to --15--.

18. (Amended) A device for protecting a circuit from voltage surges comprising:  
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a first means for switching coupled to a first power supply and connected to a second power supply;

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a [first and] second means for switching [coupled] connected between [a] said first power supply and [a] said second power supply;

a capacitor [coupled] connected between said first means for switching and said first power supply;

a first resistor coupled between said first means for switching and said second power supply; and

a second resistor coupled between said second means for switching and said first power supply;

wherein, upon the occurrence of a voltage surge on said first power supply, said first means for switching closes, thereby supplying a voltage to said second means for

switching, which also closes, thereby causing a short-circuit between said first and second power supplies [voltages].

23. (Amended) A device for protecting a circuit against voltage surges comprising:

a first means for switching having a first terminal coupled to a first power supply and a second terminal [coupled] connected to a second power supply;

a second means for switching having a first terminal [coupled] connected to said first power supply and a second terminal coupled to said second power supply and connected to a third terminal of said first means for switching; and

a third means for switching having a first terminal [and a third terminal coupled] connected to said first power supply, [and] a second terminal coupled to said second power supply and connected to a third terminal of said second means for switching and a third terminal connected to said first power supply through a capacitor;

wherein said third terminals of said first, second and third means for switching are [coupled] connected to said second power supply through first, second and third resistors, respectively.

In claim 25, line 1, change "24" to --23--.

In claim 26, line 5, change "supplying" to --supplies--; and

line 6, change "short-circuiting" to --short-circuits--.